



Disaster News Release

Federal Disaster Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all sizes

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(For media use only)

SBA TO CLOSE TUTWILER (TALLAHATCHIE COUNTY) DISASTER LOAN ASSISTANCE OFFICE ON JANUARY 24TH

JACKSON, MS – SBA will close its Tutwiler disaster loan assistance office at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 24. That means that homeowners, renters, landlords, and business owners have only a few days left to get personal help with their SBA disaster loan applications, according to SBA Disaster Area Director Michael C. Allen.

Allen announced today that the Tutwiler office, located at the City Hall, 209 Hancock Street, in Tutwiler is closing at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 24. The office originally opened on January 14.

“We keep our offices open as long as there appears to be a need for SBA to be there. We’ve seen only a few people at this location over the past few days. That tells us we’ve probably met the needs of those interested in this assistance,” Allen added.

“If you had any damage caused by the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding that occurred November 24 through December 17, 2001, I hope you’ll come in and personally meet with an SBA loan officer before the office closes. Our loan officers will be glad to answer any questions about the disaster loan program and provide any extra help you may need or want with completing the application,” Allen said.

Allen pointed out that insurance rarely covers the full cost of repairing disaster-related damage. Insurance settlement information is not required when you apply to SBA. Approved loans can be adjusted later for any insurance recovery. Applying now means you can have the extra funds in place if your insurance doesn’t cover all your needs. If you don’t need the loan, it can be cancelled. The only cost to you is the time it took to complete your application.

Even if you have insurance, you should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA(3362) and register for assistance as quickly as possible. This one call will get you referred to the agency best able to meet your disaster-related need, Allen said.

The deadline for physical damage applications is February 5, 2002. Applications will not be accepted after that date.

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Information about the disaster program is available on SBA’s homepage at www.sba.gov